

The Halyard

Virginia Department of Education
Office of Educational Technology

April 14-21, 2006



Charlie's Chatter

There is just too much to read! I can't seem to catch up with all of the things that I want to read. I have a list of titles for my pleasure and escape. I have another stack of things to read to increase my job knowledge. Then there are the NCLB Title II program applications that need to be read. And let's not forget those wonderful treasures that are found on the Internet. Do you ever start reading one article and there is a link to another article which in turn links to another one and before you know it, you are reading something entirely different than what you originally started looking for?

Yesterday, I was reading an email that someone sent which contains a link to an article that I read and thought about and then I noticed another link and before I knew it I was reading a blog written by a librarian in the Midwest. Her writing is superb and so insightful. I read one, then another until I had read most of what she had written. She says that she writes to remind herself (and us too!) why she became a librarian. She calls her blog "The feel good librarian" (<http://feelgoodlibrarian.typepad.com/feelgood-librarian/>)

At the conclusion of one her posts she writes " Librarians in general, and my colleagues specifically, continue to be one of the most talented groups on earth. They are patient, intelligent, friendly, creative, flexible, hard-working and persistent. I feel lucky to be part of the crowd." Here! Here!

That's the fun of reading, you never know where its going to take you! Read something fun today!



Check These Out Just for Fun!

- **Answers.com** is an ideal tool for the millions of people who must find and deal with all kinds of information as part of their daily routine, among them: writers, editors, students, educators, marketers, journalists, lawyers, and professionals.
- **ieSpell.com** is a free Internet Explorer browser extension that spell checks text input boxes on a webpage. It is faster than a server-side solution. Plus you get to store and use your personal word list across all your applications, instead of maintaining separate ones on each application.
- **freeplaymusic.com** Free Play Music for multimedia presentations. May be used for Educational, Non-Commercial use (limited to student use on school grounds for in classroom projects- non broadcast)

Building A Critical Thinker

Registration is now open for the summer workshops. (See last week's Halyard for complete details.) Please send your name, school name and division, email and indicate the grade level K-2, 3-5, 6-8, or 9-12 you wish to work with. The workshops will be held on June 19-21 in Norfolk, July 18-20 in Abingdon, and August 8-10 in Winchester. Email your registration form to me at:

Charlie.Makela@doe.virginia.gov

Resources for Internet Safety

Looking for information to share with parents about Internet Safety? These sites have a wealth of information that you can pass on. Don't forget to give the proper credit or to ask permission before using the information on these Web sites.

- BSA | Play It Cyber Safe <http://www.playitcybersafe.com/>
- CyberSmart! http://www.cybersmartcurriculum.org/curr_over/
- GetNetWise <http://www.getnetwise.org/>
- Internet Safety Instruction <http://www.pollyklaas.org/internet-safety/index.html>
- Kidz Privacy <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/kidzprivacy/>
- Operation Blue Ridge Thunder <http://www.blueridgethunder.com/mission.htm>
- Safe Surfin' Foundation <http://www.safesurfincentral.org/>
- Web Wise Kids <http://www.webwisekids.com/>
- Wired Kids, Inc. <http://www.wiredkids.com/>
- WiredSafety <http://www.wiredsafety.com/>



<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/AUP/home.shtml>

Podcasting and the School Library

Promoting the library—

reading and book promotion
provides storytelling
a library newsletter
creative writing podcasts
library book talks on the Teen
Read Award nominees.
book reviews
reading incentive program over-
views
connecting librarians to student
achievements.

Using student products to share learn-
ing—

An end product of student re-
search can be a paper, poster, or
even a podcast
provide subscribers with chroni-
cles of ongoing research. Stu-
dent podcasts can include inter-
views, dramatizations of stu-
dents' creative writing, readings
of book passages to demonstrate
skills, and observations about
the learning process.

Sharing school news—

The librarian can be a leader in
the use of technology to dissemi-
nate information and to increase
community involvement beyond

*Podcasting gives the end
user one more option for
information access at the
point of need.*

the library walls.

This technique can also be used
to advertise upcoming concerts
or to replay highlights of a bas-
ketball game.

Providing professional development—

librarians write book reviews
and become involved in a book
review program
podcast about the Top 10 pres-
entation tips for librarians
The podcast format for profes-
sional development is compel-
ling:
Create content once and it's
always accessible for review.

Professional development podcasts can
also include:

on-demand tutorials,
copyright discussions
book group discussion guides,

overviews of new services or
policies,
presentations by outside profes-
sionals,
introductory discussions of edu-
cational issues.

Podcasting 101 for K-12 Librarians
by Esther Kreider Eash
Computers in Libraries April 2006



Marylaine Block's Wishlist

Terry Lent, Patrick Henry High School in Hanover County, sent me a link to this great Web site.

After creating Best Information on the Net <http://library.sau.edu/bestinfo/default.htm> and publishing Neat New Stuff <http://marylaine.com/neatnew.html> for the past eleven years, I figured that pretty much every kind of web site people would have a need for would have been created by now. But sadly, we aren't there yet. Here are a few sites I've been looking for. Perhaps they exist, but I haven't been able to find them:

- * A chart for clothing sizes. What does size 12 really mean? What measurements does it assume? Would somebody please go through all the different clothing brands and supply this top secret information? And please keep updating it, because we all know that today's size 12 is larger than size 12 was 25 years ago. (Of course, if anybody did, the jobs of the people who handle department store returns would probably no longer be needed. Sorry about that.)

- * Search by color. You can search for images by topic. You can search for birds and flowers and trees and such, to

identify the one that interested you - but only if you already have some clue what it is in the first place, in which case you wouldn't need the search engine. What we DO have in our heads is a very clear recollection of the color of a flower, or maybe an insect we're trying to identify. Is there any technology that would allow us to search through images, first by a color we can select from a detailed color spectrum on the web site, and then by the type of image we're searching for?

- * A database of low clearance bridges and overpasses. I live in a town with two truck-eating railroad bridges, each of them on a north-south highway that goes through our downtown. At least once a month, a semi loses its top and much of its contents to the 10 foot clearance the truckdriver didn't notice in time. But after multiple searches through multiple search engines I have been unable to find any database or map of these bridges. If anybody from the US Department of Transportation is reading this, please take note; if you provide this database/map, trucking companies, U-Haul renters, and truckdrivers (who thereby will not lose their jobs) will rise up and call you blessed.

- * Walkshed maps. I got this idea from Worldchanging <http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/004301.html#more>. We all could stand to do a little more walking, but most of us want a destination before we set out, or something worth looking at along the way. What interesting things could people find within walking distance - say a one-mile radius - of any given site? Are there parks? Lakes or rivers or brooks? Interesting stores? Restaurants? An ice cream place or candy store? Sidewalk vendors? Museums? Farmers markets? Places to sit? Animal shelters where you could while away a few moments admiring puppies and kittens? Public restrooms, in case of a little personal emergency? Most important, are there bookstores and libraries? In residential neighborhoods, where will we find the best Christmas decorations? The best gardens? The historic houses or legendary haunted houses? If enough people compiled walkshed maps for their own immediate vicinity, somebody could aggregate them into a master database and map

Those are the information lacunae I've noticed. How about you? What websites are you waiting for somebody to build?

Keeping Up With The Bloggers

There are literally millions of blogs out there. In fact, they can be addictive! A person can find a blog on just about anything. Many people have their own blog. Blogs provide a way to post ideas and thoughts and to receive feedback to see if anyone else has the same or differing opinion on the topic.

The trouble come in finding a way to read all of the blogs you want to read. It is a challenge to visit all of the blogs that you want to read on a regular basis. One of the best ways is to join a service which aggregates the blogs onto one Web page and can be set up to notify you when new entries are

posted. Most of the major search engines (Yahoo, Google, MSN, etc.) that allow customization of their home page provide tools to preview the postings of the blogs subscribed to.

Many blogs or news services have a feature called RSS which stands for 'really simple syndication' or 'rich site summary'. An RSS feed allows you to send your favorite blog to one site that gathers the blogs from all of the blogs or news services subscribed to. These RSS feeds are a faster, more convenient for keeping up with the "Bloggers"

Some of the more popular

aggregators can be found in the article at http://email.about.com/cs/rssfeedreaders/tp/top_rss_windows.htm



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Overly Wired? There's a Word for It

¶**Spammified:** to end up in your spam folder by mistake. This is becoming the new "check is in the mail" excuse for why we don't answer e-mail messages. "I am so sorry, but I only just got your message. It had been spammified."

¶**Cellopain:** the jerk who talks loudly and obviously on his cellphone in a crowd. There are other words for this person, but they are not printable.

¶**Regurgimailer:** people who forward to everyone they know everything that lands in their in-boxes. Warnings about techniques that rapists use in parking lots; photos of adorable missing children; heart-warming lists of why women and their friendships are so wonderful; jokes about, well, everything. The fact that most of the items either have been traveling the Internet for years or turn out not to be true, or both, does not stop them. A word to regurgimailers — check Snopes.com before you forward, please.

¶**Reverberon:** the kind of e-mail described above, which has been forwarded endlessly and everywhere.

¶**Telamnesia:** a condition that restricts you to talking only to people who are on your speed-dial list because you no longer keep phone numbers in your head. For me, this includes my own home, which I misdialled the other day.

¶**Logonorrhea:** a related condition that renders you unable to use certain online accounts because you can remember neither your screen name nor your password.

¶**Bluetooth fairy:** a person who walks around with the blinking glow of a Bluetooth headset permanently in one ear. I stand guilty as charged.

There are more, of course. Send me yours. And e-mail this to everyone you know. If it doesn't end up spammified, it can become a reverberon.

By: Lisa Belkin, Life's Work Section,
New York Times, April 9, 2006



*We can not control the wind
but we can adjust the sails*